



Department of Energy
Fast Flux Test Facility Project Office
P. O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

NOV 10 1980

Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

ATTN: Mr. James R. Miller, Chief
Standardization & Special Project Branch

Gentlemen:

FFTF NATURAL CIRCULATION PRETEST PREDICTIONS FOR 5% POWER TEST

Reference: DOE/FFTFPO letter, A. J. Rizzo to W. P. Gammill, "Plans for Addressing NRC and ACRS Advice Regarding Start-up and Operation of FFTF," dated January 26, 1979.

In the reference letter, the FFTF Project indicated that the natural circulation test predictions will be provided to NRC as they become available. The reference letter also indicated that NRC would be supplied with changes to the natural circulation Test Specifications.

In accordance with the reference, enclosed is the FFTF Project prediction for the FFTF reactor and primary loop transient natural circulation test from 5% power. Included as Appendix A of the test prediction is Test Specification, TS-51-5A008, "Transient Natural Circulation Test" Revision 4, dated November 1980. The major change reflected in Revision 4 of the Test Specification is performing the natural circulation transient test initiated from 35% power during the initial ascent to full power. Previously the 35% test was scheduled to be performed after the full power run. Rescheduling the 35% test to be performed during the initial ascent to full power will provide additional assurance of safe operation in the unlikely event of an unintentional scram to natural circulation.

Current schedules indicate that the 5% test will be performed on or about November 16, 1980. The natural circulation test initiated from 35% power will follow on or about December 1, 1980. The pretest prediction for the 35% test will be transmitted in the very near future. The transient natural circulation tests initiated from 75% and 100% power and the steady state natural circulation test series are currently

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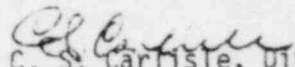
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scheduled to be performed in a subsequent ascent to power in 1981. The predictions for these tests and the results of the natural circulation testing will be provided as they become available.

Very truly yours,


C. S. Carlisle, Director
FFTF Project Office

FTF:DJF:OES

Enclosure:
Pretest Prediction for FFTF Reactor & Primary
Loop Transient Natural Circulation Test from
5% Power (TS-51-5A008, Part I)